



**Homeland  
Security**

*Privacy Office, Mail Stop 0655*

October 25, 2013

SENT VIA EMAIL TO: **8302-72839853@requests.muckrock.com**

Jason Smathers  
MuckRock News  
PO Box 55819  
Boston, MA 02205-5819

Re: **2014-HQFO-00024**

Dear Mr. Smathers:

This acknowledges receipt of your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), dated and received on October 18, 2013, and seeking all congressional communication in September and October of 2013 referencing the possibility of a government shutdown or the actual shutdown occurring from Oct 1 - 16, 2013, including records between 9-1-2013 and 10-31-2013, or through the date this request is processed (this is not a request for future documents but a request to include documents generated while this request is pending the first major search for records); please include communication to or from any member of congress or anyone acting upon a member of congress such as their staff member; include all communication from or on behalf of congressional committees, subcommittees, etc.

After careful review of your FOIA request, we determined that your request is too broad in scope or did not specifically identify the records which you are seeking. Records must be described in reasonably sufficient detail to enable government employees who are familiar with the subject area to locate records without placing an unreasonable burden upon the agency. For this reason, §5.3(b) of the DHS regulations, 6 C.F.R. Part 5, require that you describe the records you are seeking with as much information as possible to ensure that our search can locate them with a reasonable amount of effort. Whenever possible, a request should include specific information about each record sought, such as the date, title or name, author, recipients, and subject matter of the records, if known, or the DHS component or office you believe created and/or controls the record. The FOIA does not require an agency to create new records, answer questions posed by requesters, or attempt to interpret a request that does not identify specific records.

Please resubmit your request containing a reasonable description of the records you are seeking. You may want to include the names of the members of congress and their staff; including the names of the congressional committees and subcommittees. Upon receipt of a perfected request, you will be advised as to the status of your request.

**If we do not hear from you within 30 days from the date of this letter, we will assume you are no** longer interested in this FOIA request, and the case will be administratively closed. Please be advised that this action is not a denial of your request and will not preclude you from filing other requests in the future.

Your request has been assigned reference number **2014-HQFO-00024**. Please refer to this identifier in any future correspondence. You may contact this office at 1-866-431-0486 or at 202-343-1743.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mia Day". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of "Mia" and "Day" being capitalized and prominent.

Mia Day  
FOIA Program Specialist